

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /094 W

----- 058635

R 161656Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1194

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

UNCLAS LONDON 07455

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJECT: UK PUBLIC REACTION TO MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

REF: LONDON 7348 (NOTAL)

1. ALL BRITISH MEDIA MAY 16 FEATURE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE

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OF SUCCESSFUL OPERATION TO RESCUE THE MAYAGUEZ AND ITS

CREW. ALMOST ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE FACT THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS BEING WIDELY PRAISED IN U.S. FOR CONDUCT OF OPERATION WHICH IS CHARACTERIZED AS "A FOREIGN POLICY TRIUMPH".

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT IS ALSO GENERALLY FAVORABLE. LONDON TIMES CHARACTERIZES OPERATION AS "A WELL HANDLED AFFAIR". DAILY TELEGRAPH SAYS THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS BEEN VINDICATED AND THAT "AN AMERICA ACTION OVER THE MAYAGUEZ WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT WORLD-WIDE". FINANCIAL TIMES OUTLINES FACT THAT "ONCE AGAIN THE U.S. HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE A VERY DETERMINED POWER WHEN ITS OWN INTERESTS ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED". BUT FT ALSO SAYS AMERICANS WERE LUCKY; THAT "IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT HOW EASY IT IS TO SETTLE DISPUTES BY FORCE...FROM THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR'.. GUARDIAN RELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S GAMBLE CAME OFF BUT QUESTIONS WHETHER U.S. DENIALS THAT MAYAGUEZ WAS ENGAGED IN SPYING WILL LATER BECOME "INOPERATIVE" AND WHETHER DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS USED TO PERSUADE THE CAMBODIANS TO RELEASE THE CREW THE BEST AVAILABLE. GUARDIAN GOES ON TO SAY THAT COMMUNISTS SHOULD AVOID MAYAGUEZ-TYPE INCIDENTS WHEN THEY CAN TO AVOID RISK OF DRAWING AMERICAN ARMED FORCES BACK INTO THE AREA. ON THE OTHER HAND "AN AMERICA TOO EAGERLY EXULTING IN ITS ABILITY TO HIT BACK AFTER ITS DEFEAT WOULD BE A DANGER TO ITSELF AND TO THE WORLD".

3. TELEPHONE, TELEGRAM AND LETTER COMMENTS FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN UK ARE RUNNING HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF MAYAGUEZ OPERATION. WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME COMPLAINTS FROM GROUPS WHO OPPOSED U.S. PRESENCE IN INDO-CHINA. MOST OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES SEEM TO COME FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0976
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750545/aaaabotp.tel
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Review Content Flags:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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